

## EVALUATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL AND REMEDIAL SOFTWARE FOR SOL INSTRUCTION

The purpose of the review is to provide school divisions participating in the Standards of Learning Web-based Technology Initiative with evaluations and correlation of technology-based materials for instruction and remediation. The software review committee of a school division has reviewed and submitted each review.

- Only reviews of software/Web sites that are found to be effective for instruction and/ or remediation are submitted by a school division.

School Division: Albemarle County

Division Software Committee Contact: William Evans

Title: Coordinator for Instructional Technology

Phone #: 434-975-9443 Email: wevans@albemarle.org Fax: 434-975-9442

### PRODUCT INFORMATION

- Title: Larson's Middle School Math
- Version #: 1.0.4
- Copyright Date: 1998
- Title of Series: Larson's Middle School Math: An Interactive Approach
- Title of Component [module] if applicable:
- Publisher/producer: Meridian Creative Group
- System Requirements: MAC OS System 7.0.1 or later; 10MB Hard Drive; 16 MB Memory, 16 BIT Audio (Also available for Windows)

### Standards of Learning Correlations and degree of Correlation with the Product

#### **MATHEMATICS:**

☒ Mathematics SOL #See attached document for details (Exceptional), SOL #6.2 (Exceptional), SOL #6.3 (Exceptional)

#### **UTILIZATION AND TEACHER PREPARATION**

Classroom applications of the software/Web site in your division, including grade/ability level, student grouping, and special needs:

One school targeted 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who were in a "practical" or "low standard" level class (the lowest third in mathematical performance). These students were "double blocked" in math and received instruction daily for 90 minutes. This usually consisted of a regular classroom instructional component plus a Math lab where students took an initial test for each

module to determine what areas they needed to work on. They then worked at their own rate through those modules.

Some of these students had been identified as learning disabled or in need of special services. Most of these identified students had a Resource class for half of the 90 minute block and spent the other half in Math lab.

One computer lab was dedicated to serve as a Math lab and Larson's MSM was installed on the server and the client on individual hard drives. Students accessed the program through their individual applications folders via At Ease.

Type and degree of teacher training required to support effective utilization of the software/Web site.

Teachers received two training sessions; one when the software was first acquired, then again at the beginning of the next school year for those teachers who would be using the program for the year. Each training session was provided free of charge and consisted of a structured presentation and walk-through of the software's features in our computer lab, plus an unstructured time to explore the program and ask questions. Teachers were given an 800 number to reach the program representative who trained us. She was very helpful and was available to answer any questions that came up. Tech support was also provided.

Vendor teacher training available for this product - Yes

If "YES", is cost: included in purchase price;

is training: on-site with company presenter ;

quality of training: exceeded expectations

DIVISION'S ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: SOL and Larson's Middle School Math

6<sup>th</sup> Grade SOL

Covered

6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.8 (partial), 6.9, 6.11, 6.12 (partial), 6.13 (partial), 6.14, 6.15, 6.17 (partial), 6.18, 6.19, 6.20, 6.21 (partial), 6.22, 6.23

Not Covered

6.7, 6.10, 6.16

7<sup>th</sup> Grade SOL

Covered

7.1, 7.2, 7.3 (partial), 7.4, 7.5, 7.6, 7.7, 7.8 (partial), 7.9, 7.10 (partial), 7.11, 7.12, 7.13, 7.14, 7.15, 7.16 (partial), 7.17 (partial), 7.18, 7.19, 7.20 (partial), 7.21, 7.22

Not Covered

None

8<sup>th</sup> Grade SOL

Covered

8.1, 8.3, 8.4, 8.6 (partial), 8.7, 8.8, 8.10 (partial), 8.11, 8.12, 8.13, 8.14, 8.15 (partial), 8.16 (partial), 8.17, 8.18

Not Covered

8.2, 8.5, 8.9

SOL not covered or partially covered are primarily those requiring the student to write or draw/construct or manipulate concrete objects.

The Larson program has both Skills Building and Problem Solving sections. The Problem Solving section is very difficult for students with reading difficulties or those lacking in the ability to apply

more abstract ideas to real world situations. These are complicated word problems that will nicely challenge your advanced/honors level students, but may be too frustrating for lower level students. You may wish to work on problem solving strategies and applications in the classroom rather than on computer for these lower level students.

## **TECHNICAL ASPECTS and TEACHER SUPPORT MATERIALS**

Indicate if the software/Web site has been reviewed in either of the following sources:

- In *EvaluTech* (<http://www.evalutech.sreb.org/>) - Yes or No: Yes
- if yes - date reviewed: Shows up as "Larson's" (sic) 1998? (or this may just be the date of the software version).
- In *Educational Software Preview Guide* (ISTE)  
(<http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/Technology/imt.html>) - Yes or No: Yes